Have you checked out the **IL Social Science in Action** website recently?

If you haven’t scoped out the **IL Social Science in Action** website ([http://www.ilsocialscienceinaction.org/](http://www.ilsocialscienceinaction.org/)) recently you may be missing out on some newly released Illinois resources and updated resource websites!

While you’re exploring IL Social Science in Action be sure to:

- Join the [Social Science ListServ](http://www.ilsocialscienceinaction.org/) for the most up-to-date information throughout the school year!
- Check out all the Illinois-specific resources under the [Illinois Resources](http://www.ilsocialscienceinaction.org/) tab.
- Use the [Standards Glossary](http://www.ilsocialscienceinaction.org/) to explore misunderstood terms throughout the IL Social Science Standards.
- Explore the [Danielson Correlation for Implementation](http://www.ilsocialscienceinaction.org/) to see how full implementation of the SS Standards aligns to the Danielson Framework.
- View inquiry examples from other classrooms in IL and submit your own in the [Inquiry Spotlight](http://www.ilsocialscienceinaction.org/).
- Scope out the new and reorganized external websites on the [Resource Websites](http://www.ilsocialscienceinaction.org/) page! Be sure to scroll down to see websites organized by the different areas of the standards.
K-12 Inquiry Graphics

Inquiry is an ongoing cycle of learning to use knowledge at increasingly complex levels as a way to integrate content. Through the inquiry process, students (individually and or collaboratively) identify issues, pose questions, investigate answers, pose more questions, weigh the evidence, come to conclusions, and take action on their learning.

In the Social Science Standards, inquiry skills are used by students while applying the disciplinary concepts to construct essential and supporting questions and determine helpful sources to conduct investigations and take informed action.

Illinois has created inquiry graphics that illustrate the stages of the inquiry process and guides the process for incorporating the Illinois Learning Standards for Social Science, particularly the Inquiry Skills portion of the standards. The statements contained in the graphic are suggested steps for each stage of the process. The intention is to support teachers with the goal of engaging students in the inquiry process. Graphics for each grade level can be found on the Illinois Resources tab of the IL Social Science in Action website.

K-12 Analyzing Source Packets

Analyzing sources should be a part of every K-12 classroom not only because it is specifically addressed in the Illinois Social Science Standards but is also an important part of preparing for college and/or career life. Rather than students glancing through sources or having someone telling them what sources reveal, students should be challenged to become better equipped to analyze sources and come to their own conclusions.

Early this fall, Analyzing Source Packets will be released on the Illinois Resources tab of the IL Classrooms in Action website. These packets are grade banded (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12) and each packet highlights the different types of sources students might encounter. By focusing on the variety of documents, objects, photographs, and oral histories—students can get a glimpse into the past beyond what a textbook can provide. Analyzing sources is crucial to the study of history. They provide tangible links to the past that help students build personal connections to history.

For each type of source, educators are provided with an overview about the source, teacher tips, questions to use in conjunction with the source, strengths and limitations of that type of source as well as sample graphic organizers students can use when analyzing the source. In addition, teachers can find lesson plans integrating the use of sources.

Be sure to sign up for the Social Science ListServ and check the Illinois Resources page to get this great resource as soon as its released!

K-5 Children’s Literature Connections to Social Science Standards

Children’s literature can be a great resource when teaching the Illinois Social Science Standards! Of course, just reading a book does not teach a standard. However, they can be used to introduce a lesson, unit, or concept; supplement a lesson or unit; provide additional information for specific topics/standards.

Coming soon to the Illinois Resources tab, educators will be able to access Children’s Literature Connections Lists for each individual grade level K-5. Each packet provides a list of children’s books that may assist teachers with connections to the Illinois Social Science Standards.

Included in each packet are books to assist with the Inquiry Skills Standard of taking informed action as well as books to assist with the Civics, Economics, Geography, and History Standards. Each book is listed with a brief description of the text as well as the standard to which it is connected.

Eager to get started before the whole packet is released? Check out this great resource list from Kath Murdoch to inspire inquiry through picture books. Remember, check back on the IL Social Science in Action website for frequent updates to Illinois Resources throughout the year. You can even sign up for the Social Science ListServ to be personally notified when new resources are released!